

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1        1. (currently amended) A camera control apparatus  
2 comprising:

3        an image data receiving section for receiving from an  
4                image transmitter image data captured by cameras;

5        an image data playback section for displaying the  
6                received images on a screen;

7        a camera control area display section for displaying  
8                camera symbols which correspond to information  
9                representing the locations of the cameras and the  
10                directions in which the cameras are oriented as a  
11                control region for controlling the cameras connected  
12                to the image transmitter;

13        a command load section for loading the coordinates of a  
14                location in the control region designated by an  
15                operator;

16        a camera-to-be-operated determination section for  
17                determining a camera optimal for shooting the  
18                designated location;

19        a control command conversion section for converting  
20                information about the coordinates loaded by the  
21                command load section into a control command signal  
22                capable of being used for controlling the cameras;  
23        and

24           a control command transmission section for transmitting  
25           the converted control command signal to the image  
26           transmitter, wherein  
27           said camera-to-be-operated determination section  
28           determines a camera to be panned on the basis of an  
29           angle between an imaginary line connecting the  
30           center of the camera symbol with the designated  
31           location and an imaginary line connecting the center  
32           of the camera symbol with the direction in which the  
33           camera is currently oriented.[[.]]

1           2. (canceled)

1           3. (previously presented) The camera control apparatus as  
2           defined in claim 1, further comprising an employable camera  
3           survey section which stores information about the positions of  
4           obstructions existing in the line of sight to be shot by the  
5           plurality of cameras and which eliminates a camera undesirable  
6           for shooting the designated location from candidates  
7           considered by the camera-to-be-operated determination section.

1           4. (previously presented) The camera control apparatus as  
2           defined in claim 3, wherein, in the event of presence of an  
3           obstruction of the view between the area to be shot and one or  
4           more of the cameras in the area where the cameras are  
5           disposed, the obstruction is displayed.

1           5. (previously presented) A camera control apparatus  
2 comprising:

3           an image data receiving section for receiving image data  
4           captured by cameras from an image transmitter;

5           an image data playback section for displaying the  
6           received images on a screen;

7           a camera control area display section for displaying  
8           camera symbols which correspond to information  
9           representing the locations of the cameras and the  
10          directions in which the cameras are oriented as a  
11          control region for controlling the cameras connected  
12          to the image transmitter;

13          a command load section for loading the coordinates of a  
14          location in the control region designated by an  
15          operator;

16          a camera-to-be-operated determination section for  
17          determining a camera optimal for shooting the  
18          designated location;

19          a control command conversion section for converting  
20          information about the coordinates loaded by the  
21          command load section into a control command signal  
22          capable of being used for controlling the cameras;

23          a control command transmission section for transmitting  
24          the converted control command signal to the image  
25          transmitter;

26          an angular-shift-time calculation section for calculating  
27          the time required for the camera to pan toward the  
28          designated location;

29 a focus storage section for grasping the focus of a  
30 plurality of cameras; and  
31 a focus-shift-time calculation section for calculating  
32 the time required for the camera to attain a focus  
33 on the designated location,  
34 wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section  
35 determines a camera which can shoot the designated  
36 location in the minimum time as a camera to be  
37 operated, on the basis of the time required for the  
38 camera to pan toward the designated location, as  
39 well as the time required for the camera to attain a  
40 focus on the designated location.

1 6. (original) The camera control apparatus as defined in  
2 claim 5, wherein there are displayed not only the direction in  
3 which the camera is oriented but also the focusing state of  
4 the camera.

1 7. (previously presented) A camera control apparatus  
2 comprising:  
3 an image data receiving section for receiving image data  
4 captured by cameras from an image transmitter;  
5 an image data playback section for displaying the  
6 received images on a screen;  
7 a camera control area display section for displaying  
8 camera symbols which correspond to information  
9 representing the locations of the cameras and the  
10 directions in which the cameras are oriented as a

11 control region for controlling the cameras connected  
12 to the image transmitter;  
13 a command load section for loading the coordinates of a  
14 location in the control region designated by an  
15 operator;  
16 a camera-to-be-operated determination section for  
17 determining a camera optimal for shooting the  
18 designated location;  
19 a control command conversion section for converting  
20 information about the coordinates loaded by the  
21 command load section into a control command signal  
22 capable of being used for controlling the cameras;  
23 a control command transmission section for transmitting  
24 the converted control command signal to the image  
25 transmitter;  
26 a view-point direction survey section for storing the  
27 direction in which the operator desires to shoot the  
28 designated location,  
29 wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section  
30 determines a camera to be operated, from information  
31 as to whether or not an image can be shot in the  
32 direction designated by the view-point survey  
33 section, as well as from the angle between the  
34 current shooting direction of the camera and the  
35 direction of an imaginary line connecting the  
36 designated location with the center of the camera  
37 symbol.

1           8. (original) The camera control apparatus as defined in  
2 claim 7, wherein there is displayed information about the  
3 direction in which the operator desires to shoot.

1           9. (previously presented) A camera control apparatus  
2 comprising:

3           an image data receiving section for receiving image data  
4           captured by cameras from an image transmitter;

5           an image data playback section for displaying the  
6           received images on a screen;

7           a camera control area display section for displaying  
8           camera symbols which correspond to information  
9           representing the locations of the cameras and the  
10          directions in which the cameras are oriented as a  
11          control region for controlling the cameras connected  
12          to the image transmitter;

13          a command load section for loading the coordinates of a  
14          location in the control region designated by an  
15          operator;

16          a camera-to-be-operated determination section for  
17          determining a camera optimal for shooting the  
18          designated location;

19          a control command conversion section for converting  
20          information about the coordinates loaded by the  
21          command load section into a control command signal  
22          capable of being used for controlling the cameras;

23           a control command transmission section for transmitting  
24           the converted control command signal to the image  
25           transmitter;  
26           an angular-shift-time calculation section for calculating  
27           the time required for the camera to pan toward the  
28           designated location;  
29           a zoom storage section for grasping the degree of zoom of  
30           a plurality of cameras;  
31           a zoom-shift time calculation section for calculating the  
32           time required for a camera to zoom in order to  
33           display an image of the designated range; and  
34           a zoom range display section for displaying, in the  
35           camera control region, a range to be zoomed,  
36           wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section  
37           determines a camera to be operated, from the time  
38           required for the camera to pan toward the designated  
39           location after the operator has designated a desired  
40           range in the control region and the time required  
41           for the camera to zoom in or out for attaining focus  
42           on the designated range.

1           10. (original) The camera control apparatus as defined in  
2           claim 1, wherein an image captured by the camera selected by  
3           the camera-to-be-operated determination section is displayed  
4           greater than images captured by other cameras.

1           11. (previously presented) The camera control method as  
2           defined in claim 13, wherein, when a camera most optimal for

3 shooting the designated location is selected, an image  
4 captured by the thus-selected camera is displayed greater than  
5 images captured by other cameras.

1 12. (currently amended) A camera control apparatus  
2 comprising:

3 an image data receiving section for receiving image data  
4 captured by cameras from an image transmitter;

5 an image data playback section for displaying the  
6 received images on a screen;

7 a camera control area display section for displaying  
8 camera symbols which correspond to information  
9 representing the locations of the cameras and the  
10 directions in which the cameras are oriented as a  
11 control region for controlling the cameras connected  
12 to the image transmitter;

13 a command load section for loading the coordinates of a  
14 location in the control region designated by an  
15 operator;

16 a camera-to-be-operated determination section for  
17 determining a camera optimal for shooting the  
18 designated location;

19 a control command conversion section for converting  
20 information about the coordinates loaded by the  
21 command load section into a control command signal  
22 capable of being used for controlling the cameras;



23           a control command transmission section for transmitting  
24           the converted control command signal to the image  
25           transmitter; and  
26           a zoom-scale determination section for determining the  
27           zoom scale of each of the cameras which have been  
28           examined as being optimal for shooting the  
29           designated location by the camera to-be-operated  
30           determination section, in a sequence in which the  
31           cameras are arranged.

1           13.   (currently   amended)   A   camera   control   method  
2   comprising steps of:  
3           displaying images captured by a plurality of cameras, a  
4           map relating to a location whose image is captured  
5           by the plurality of cameras, camera symbols  
6           representing the locations of the cameras in the  
7           map, and directions in which the cameras are  
8           oriented;  
9           selecting a camera optimal for shooting a location  
10          designated by an operator;  
11          and  
12          controlling the selected camera such that the camera is  
13          panned toward the designated location, wherein, from  
14          among the plurality of cameras, there is selected a  
15          camera involving a minimum angle between the  
16          direction in which the camera is currently oriented  
17          and ~~the~~ an imaginary line connecting the center of  
18          the camera symbol with the designated location.

1           14.   (canceled).

1           15. (original) The camera control method as defined in  
2 claim 13, wherein the camera which is blocked by an impediment  
3 and cannot shoot the designated location is eliminated from  
4 candidates for selection of a camera to be operated.

1           16. (original) The camera control method as defined in  
2 claim 15, wherein, in the event of presence of an impediment  
3 in the area where the cameras are disposed, the impediment is  
4 displayed.

1           17. (previously presented) A camera control method  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           displaying images captured by a plurality of cameras, a  
4           map relating to a location whose image is captured  
5           by the plurality of cameras, camera symbols  
6           representing the locations of the cameras in the  
7           map, and directions in which the cameras are  
8           oriented;  
9           selecting a camera optimal for shooting a location  
10           designated by an operator; and  
11           controlling the selected camera such that the camera is  
12           panned toward the designated location,  
13           wherein, from among the plurality of cameras, a camera  
14           which can shoot the designated location within the  
15           minimum period of time is selected on the basis of

16           the time required for the camera to pan toward the  
17           designated location from the direction in which the  
18           camera is currently oriented and the time required  
19           for the camera to zoom into the designated location,  
20           and the selected camera is panned toward the  
21           designated location and attains focus on the  
22           designated location.

1           18. (original) The camera control method as defined in  
2           claim 17, wherein there are displayed not only the direction  
3           in which the camera is oriented but also the focusing state of  
4           the camera.

1           19. (original) The camera control method as defined in  
2           claim 13, wherein cameras incapable of shooting an image from  
3           a direction desired by the operator are eliminated from  
4           candidates camera-to-be-operated.

1           20. (original) The camera control method as defined in  
2           claim 19, wherein there is displayed information about the  
3           direction in which the operator desires to shoot.

1           21. (previously presented) A camera control method  
2           comprising the steps of:

3           displaying images captured by a plurality of cameras, a  
4           map relating to a location whose image is captured  
5           by the plurality of cameras, camera symbols  
6           representing the locations of the cameras in the

7 map, and directions in which the cameras are  
8 oriented;  
9 selecting a camera optimal for shooting a location  
10 designated by an operator; and  
11 controlling the selected camera such that the camera is  
12 panned toward the designated location,  
13 wherein, from among the plurality of cameras, there is  
14 selected a camera which can shoot the designated  
15 range within the minimum period of time, on the  
16 basis of the time required for the camera to pan  
17 toward a designated range from the direction in  
18 which the camera is currently oriented after the  
19 camera has received an instruction for designating a  
20 desired range from the operator, and the time  
21 required for the camera to attain focus on the  
22 designated range from the range on which the camera  
23 is currently focused, and the selected camera is  
24 panned toward the designated location, to thereby  
25 attain focus on the designated range.

1 22. (currently amended) A camera control method  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 displaying images captured by a plurality of cameras, a  
4 map relating to a location whose image is captured  
5 by the plurality of cameras, camera symbols  
6 representing the locations of the cameras in the  
7 map, and directions in which the cameras are  
8 oriented;

9           selecting a camera optimal for shooting a location  
10                designated by an operator;  
11           and  
12           controlling the selected camera such that the camera is  
13                panned toward the designated location,  
14           wherein, when cameras optimal for shooting the designated  
15                location are selected, images captured by the  
16                cameras are displayed at respective scales, in a  
17                sequence in which the cameras are arranged.